

HOUSE No. 141

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Danielle W. Gregoire

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act requiring the Department of Transitional Assistance to track and report on the use of emergency shelter services by families.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Danielle W. Gregoire	4th Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 119 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO TRACK AND REPORT ON THE USE OF EMERGENCY SHELTER SERVICES BY FAMILIES.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority
of the same, as follows:*

1 Paragraph B of Section 2 of chapter 18 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after
2 clause (i) the following clause: -

3 (j) Notwithstanding any other general or special law or rule or regulation, the department of transitional assistance
4 shall report quarterly to the house and senate committees on ways and means on the number of families who apply
5 for emergency assistance funded family shelter, the number of families approved for shelter, the number of families
6 denied shelter along with reasons for denials, the home community of families receiving shelter, the number of
7 families receiving shelter within each home community, the number of available shelter slots within each home
8 community, the income level of families receiving shelter, the number of families receiving shelter who had
9 previously accessed state-funded programs to reduce homelessness and the programs that had been accessed, the
10 composition of families receiving shelter, the reason that the household is seeking emergency family shelter, the
11 reasons that families exit shelter, including reasons for voluntary departure and termination, exiting families'
12 housing plans, including type of housing arrangement, subsidy status, monthly rent, and gross monthly income, and
13 any other information that the department determines to be necessary in evaluating the operation of the emergency
14 assistance family shelters program. The report shall also include information, by type of shelter, on average length
15 of stay, average cost per household served, average number of shelter slots not used either as the result of no
16 placement being made or of a placed family not making use of shelter, and an analysis of this data, including an
17 analysis of causes relating to any significant differences in the data for each type of shelter. The report shall also
18 provide a status report on the outcomes of department-funded homeless prevention initiatives providing information
19 on the nature and total cost of each such initiative, the number of families served by each such initiative, the average
20 cost per family of each such initiative, the affordability and stability of housing or alternative shelter placements for
21 prevention program recipients including type of housing arrangement, subsidy status, monthly rent, and gross
22 monthly income, and any other information that the department determines to be necessary in evaluating the
23 operation of state-funded homeless prevention programs.”